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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/189,543 11/10/98 CHEE

M A-66828-1/DJ

HM12/0502
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EXAMINER

MARSCHEL, A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

14

DATE MAILED:

05/02/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/189,543	Applicant(s) Chee et al.
	Examiner Ardin Marschel	Group Art Unit 1631



Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 14, 2000

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, 02/20/03, 14 sheets

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

-- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES --

The art unit designated for this application has changed. Applicant(s) are hereby informed that future correspondence should be directed to Art Unit 1631.

Applicants' arguments, filed 2/14/00, have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Consideration of the citations pointed to by applicants revealed that the limitation of discrete or individual sites on the substrate for microsphere attachment is separate from random distribution of microspheres. Citing these both as limitations in the same claims is NEW MATTER. For example, in the instant specification at page 9, line 30, through page 10, line 17, the patterning of sites, for example discrete sites, is an alternative to a random distribution and not practiced at the same time. See specifically page 10, line 7, where the alternative is given by the word "or" in said line. This

rejection is necessitated by amendment.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and (e) as being clearly anticipated by Ekins et al. (P/N 5,516,635).

This rejection is maintained and reiterated from the previous office action, mailed 9/7/99, and as necessitated by amendment due to the newly added claims as discussed below. This rejection is maintained partly due to anticipation of removal of the above noted NEW MATTER thus leaving the claims rejected as before. Applicants also argue that Ekins et al. fails to teach a bioactive agent and an identifier. In response the binding of the microspheres is clearly via a bioactive agent such as an antibody. Secondly, the different markers such as multiple fluorescent labels decode target binding as an identifier. Applicants also argue that a single label is utilized in Ekins et

al. in contrast to multiple markers in the instant invention. In response Ekins et al. at column 4, lines 57-62, Ekins et al. specifically cites the use of multiple different dyes. Applicants further argue that non-optical signatures are required in instant claims 2, 6, and 13 contrary to the reference. In response, Ekins et al. includes enzymatic labels on the microspheres as given in column 4, lines 10-12, which are not optical labels but rather non-optical labels that are visualized via enzymatic reaction as a second step. It is noted that microtitre wells are utilized in Ekins et al. at column 13, lines 29-33, as also required in instant claims 15 and 16. This pointing to column 13 is necessitated by amendment.

It is acknowledged that the following applications have been considered: 09/344,526; 60/090,473; 09/287,573; 08/944,850; 09/315,584; 09/256,943; 60/113,968; 09/151,877; 08/818,199; 08/851,203

No claim is allowed.

Applicants' amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED

STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ardin Marschel, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 308-3894. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, can be reached on (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

April 28, 2000

Ardin H. Marschel
ARDIN H. MARSCHEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER